



HR0877

LRB099 15419 GRL 39719 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The growing trade deficits, driven by the North
3 American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), China's accession to the
4 World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade
5 Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs, 3.2 million jobs, and
6 75,000 jobs respectively; and

7 WHEREAS, U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5
8 million from 2000 to 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and
10 entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime
11 earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers; and

12 WHEREAS, The long decline of the American manufacturing
13 base, exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward
14 outsourcing, has undermined our economic security and poses a
15 direct threat to our national security; and

16 WHEREAS, The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs
17 deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues,
18 jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants, as
19 well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon
20 infrastructure building, repair, and maintenance; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. annual trade deficit has increased
2 dramatically from \$70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA
3 went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014; and

4 WHEREAS, Foreign investors have already used NAFTA's
5 investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions to
6 challenge decisions regarding local building permits,
7 environmental regulations, and state bans on toxic chemicals
8 and decisions of state courts; and

9 WHEREAS, Climate change and environmental degradation
10 threaten communities across the globe and ISDS provisions in
11 the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) may expose nations
12 enacting policies to fight climate change to ISDS cases that
13 undermine these efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, Promoting economic growth with equity in Illinois
15 requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation
16 process to ensure that the voices of workers, farmers, small
17 businesses, families, and communities are heard and their
18 interests addressed; and

19 WHEREAS, The TPP has effectively shut state and local
20 governments out of the process, limiting our ability to
21 influence its rules to ensure the people of Illinois can
22 participate in the benefits of trade; and

1 WHEREAS, Given the enactment of fast track trade
2 negotiating authority, states, localities, and their citizens
3 will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade
6 agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to
7 strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality, and promote
8 sustainable growth; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 call upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S.
12 House of Representatives to oppose the Trans-Pacific
13 Partnership and any similar trade deals if they fail to
14 restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we call upon our elected officials in the
17 U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new
18 trade deals such as the TPP only if they do the following:

19 (1) protect and promote traditional state and local
20 prerogatives and authority under our federal system by
21 ensuring that states and localities will not be required to
22 comply with certain commitments, including any

1 restrictions on preferences for local, state, or U.S. goods
2 or services, without prior informed consent of the
3 legislature or local lawmaking body;

4 (2) ensure balanced trade and address the excessive,
5 job-killing U.S. trade deficit;

6 (3) include enforceable rules against currency
7 manipulation;

8 (4) exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement
9 (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies
10 over domestic ones and undermine public choices;

11 (5) ensure that countries cannot undercut U.S.-based
12 producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and
13 enforcement;

14 (6) ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust
15 enforcement of trade rules, including labor and
16 environmental rules;

17 (7) include strong rules of origin to promote economic
18 growth and job creation in the U.S.;

19 (8) promote high standards of protection for
20 workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than
21 promoting a race to the bottom; and

22 (9) put the interests of people over the interests of
23 private profit; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
25 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the

1 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member
2 of the Illinois congressional delegation.